

On 1 August 2006 a new round of the academic community's census programme commenced with ESRC funding, continuing the programme which has run since 2001 jointly funded by ESRC and JISC. The new programme will run until 31 July 2011 and is summarised on this page. Members are invited to note the main features of the new programme.

1. Continuation of the existing data support units

The major part of the programme's activities are undertaken through a series of data support units who provide access and expert user support to the academic community in relation to specific census datasets. The new programme funding does not incorporate any provision for 2011 data acquisition. These core programme services are as follows:

- The **Census Dissemination Unit** at the University of Manchester supports online census aggregate statistics.
- The **UKBORDERS** service at the University of Edinburgh supports online census boundary data.
- The **Centre for Interaction Data Estimation and Research** (previously the Census Interaction Data Service) in the School of Geography at the University of Leeds supports online special migration and special workplace statistics.
- The **Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research** at the University of Manchester supports users of the Samples of Anonymised Records online and to a lesser extent through special licence and ONS secure settings.
- The **Centre for Longitudinal Study Information and User Support** at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine supports the ONS Longitudinal Study held in an ONS secure setting. There is no direct user access to the LS data.
- An integrated registration service providing one-stop user registration to all the programme's online datasets and services is provided by the **Census Registration Unit** based in the UK Data Archive at the University of Essex. Around 38,000 users are currently registered with the programme.
- The overall **Programme Coordinator** is Professor David Martin in the School of Geography at the University of Southampton.

2. Creation of a new Census Portal and incorporation of the new Longitudinal Studies Centre – Scotland

- A new **Census Portal** service is being developed by the UK Data Archive, to provide a single integrated entry point to all the programmes' holdings, incorporating searchable metadata and user support resources.
- The **Longitudinal Studies Centre – Scotland** provides a similar level of user support to the new Scottish Longitudinal Study, with projects commencing in late 2006.

3. Census development projects

Funding has been set aside for a round of census development projects. Discussion with ONS has been focused on ensuring objectives of common interest which do not duplicate operational research being undertaken by the census organizations. All funding

amounts and dates are provisional and there is still scope to influence the content of the priority areas.